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TO AMEMBASSY KIGALI PRIORITY

INFO RWANDA COLLECTIVE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 331202

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: PREL, PGOV, PREF, PHUM, EAID, US, RW

SUBJECT: RWANDAN PM MEETS WITH NSC SENIOR AFRICA DIRECTOR

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. PRIME MINISTER TWAGIRAMUNGU CALLED ON NSC SENIOR
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DIRECTOR FOR AFRICA DON STEINBERG ON NOVEMBER 30. IN A

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WIDE-RANGING INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT, TWAGIRAMUNGU BEGAN BY THANKING THE U.S. FOR ITS EARLY SUPPORT OF HIS GOVERNMENT, INCLUDING DE-RECOGNIZING THE PREVIOUS REGIME, EARLY RECOGNITION OF HIS GOVERNMENT, PROVIDING HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE AND SERVING AS AN "INTERPRETER" FOR HIS GOVERNMENT VIS-A-VIS THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY. "IT WAS A PROUD MOMENT FOR US WHEN YOU RAISED THE AMERICAN FLAG IN KIGALI," HE SAID. ON THE OTHER HAND, HE QUESTIONED OUR CURRENT EFFORTS TO REBUILD HIS COUNTRY, INCLUDING OUR WILLINGNESS TO PROVIDE ONLY DOLLARS 2.5 MILLION TO ADDRESS THE QUESTION OF WORLD BANK ARREARAGES WHEN RWANDA NEEDED MUCH MORE. HE CONTRASTED THIS WITH THE CONTINUING MASSIVE SUPPORT PROVIDED FOR THE REFUGEES IN NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES, WHOM HE CHARACTERIZED AS HOSTAGES OF THE EX-FAR AND MILITIAS. "OUR TOP PRIORITY IS TO GET OUR PEOPLE BACK," HE SAID, BUT THAT REQUIRED FOREIGN ASSISTANCE TO

CREATE THE NECESSARY CONDITIONS OF SECURITY AND STABILITY. HE SAID HIS GOVERNMENT WANTED TO CREATE WELCOME CENTERS TO ASSIST THE REINTEGRATION OF THE REFUGEES INTO THEIR VILLAGES, AND MADE A POINT OF STATING THAT THE RETURNEES WOULD BE INSTALLED IN THEIR OWN PROPERTIES. HIS GOVERNMENT WAS AWARE OF INTERNATIONAL CONCERNS OVER THE OCCUPATION OF HOUSES BY RETURNING TUTSI REFUGEES AND WOULD ENSURE THAT THESE TUTSIS (INCLUDING THE SO-CALLED "FIFTY-NINERS") WOULD BE EVICTED. HOWEVER, THIS REINFORCED THE NEED FOR INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE TO BUILD HOUSES FOR RETURNING REFUGEES. OTHER TOP DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES WERE AGRICULTURE SERVICES TO PROVIDE IMMEDIATE EMPLOYMENT TO RETURNEES AND RE-ESTABLISHING COMMERCIAL AND

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FINANCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE TO ALLOW NORMAL ECONOMIC ACTIVITY TO BEGIN.

3. TWAGIRAMUNGU REAFFIRMED HIS COMMITMENT TO A BROAD-BASED GOVERNMENT IN LINE WITH THE ARUSHA ACCORD AND THE NEED FOR NATIONAL RECONCILIATION. HE SAID THAT 2,000 OF THE FORMER FAR AND GENDARMERIE HAD ALREADY BEEN INTEGRATED INTO THE GOVERNMENT FORCES, AND MORE WOULD BE FORTHCOMING.

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4. TAKING A BROAD-SIDE AGAINST THE SO-CALLED GERSONY REPORT, TWAGIRAMUNGU SAID THE REPORT WAS DESIGNED TO TARNISH THE IMAGE OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT. IN FACT, HIS GOVERNMENT WAS DOING ALL IT COULD TO PREVENT REPRISALS AND REVENGE KILLINGS. ONE IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN THIS REGARD WAS THE CREATION OF A RESPECTED JUDICIAL SYSTEM, SO THOSE TEMPTED TO TAKE THE LAW INTO THEIR OWN HANDS WOULD HAVE FAITH THAT JUSTICE WOULD BE DONE.

5. STEINBERG SAID THAT THE U.S. IS STRONGLY COMMITTED TO THE RETURN TO NORMALCY IN RWANDA. IN ADDITION TO OUR PLEDGED SUPPORT FOR CLEARING THE IFI ARREARAGES, WE ARE EXPEDITING OUR PROCEDURES TO ALLOW FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO SPECIFIC GOR MINISTRIES, INCLUDING JUSTICE. HE SAID WE SHARE TWAGIRAMUNGU'S BELIEF THAT AN EFFECTIVE JUDICIARY IS ESSENTIAL TO CREATE STABILITY, STRESSING THAT THE INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL WOULD ASSIST THIS EFFORT. TWAGIRAMUNGU RESPONDED THAT ALTHOUGH HIS GOVERNMENT HAD OPPOSED CREATION OF THE TRIBUNAL FOR REASONS THAT ARE WELL KNOWN, IT HAD PLEDGED TO COOPERATE CLOSELY WITH THE TRIBUNAL IN BRINGING WAR CRIMINALS TO JUSTICE. STEINBERG
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ASKED ABOUT THE NAMING OF A HUMAN RIGHTS POINT PERSON WITHIN THE GOR. TWAGIRAMUNGU SAID THE GOR HAD ALREADY DECIDED TO APPOINT A COORDINATOR FOR HUMAN RIGHTS WITHIN A SEPARATE DIVISION OF THE JUSTICE MINISTRY AND WAS WORKING

WITH INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS TO DEFINE THE TERMS FOR THIS DIVISION. IN ADDITION, HE STRONGLY SUPPORTED A ROLE FOR THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY IN MONITORING LOCAL CONDITIONS, STRESSING THAT HIS GOVERNMENT IS COOPERATING FULLY WITH THE EUROPEAN UNION'S MONITORS. "WE ARE NOT GIVING THEM ORDERS; THEY CAN GO WHEREVER THEY LIKE." ASKED IF THE SAME WAS TRUE OF THE UNAMIR PEACEKEEPERS, TWAGIRAMUNGU ASSURED US THAT IT WAS. "THEY TOO CAN GO WHEREVER THEY WANT," HE SAID.

6. GIVEN THE NEED FOR NATIONAL RECONCILIATION, STEINBERG SAID THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY WAS CONSIDERING WHETHER THE APPOINTMENT OF A SPECIAL MEDIATOR TO ASSIST THE PARTIES TO COME TOGETHER WOULD BE A USEFUL STEP.

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TWAGIRAMUNGU EXPRESSED DEEP DOUBTS ABOUT HIS INITIATIVE. "WE KNOW WHO THE ACCEPTABLE FORMER GOVERNMENT AND MILITARY LEADERS ARE," HE SAID, " AND WE CAN WORK OUT THE CONDITIONS OF THEIR RETURN." HE ADDED THAT SUCH A MEDIATION EFFORTS MIGHT DEGENERATE INTO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TRYING TO IMPOSE NEW LEADERS ON THE RWANDAN PEOPLE. MORE IMPORTANT WAS THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY DOING ALL IT COULD TO PERSUADE THE EX-FAR FORCES THAT THERE WAS NO WAY THEY COULD RE-IMPOSE THEIR WILL ON THE RWANDAN PEOPLE. BRIEFLY DISCUSSING SECURITY IN THE REFUGEE CAMPS, TWAGIRAMUNGU SAID IT WAS ESSENTIAL TO RE-ESTABLISH INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS FOR THE PROTECTION OF

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REFUGEES. HE SAID SECURITY IN THE CAMPS IN TANZANIA AND BURUNDI COULD BE ADDRESSED BY THE RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS, BUT MORE HAD TO BE DONE BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY IN ZAIRE, WHERE THE LOCAL POLICE AND MILITARY FORCES WERE INEFFECTIVE AT BEST.

7. COMMENT: THERE WAS STRONG RESIDUE OF GRATITUDE AND GOOD WILL FROM TWAGIRAMUNGU FOR OUR EARLY SUPPORT FOR HIS GOVERNMENT. HE COMMENTED ON HAVING BEEN WARMLY RECEIVED AT THE WHITE HOUSE BACK IN JUNE, EVEN WHILE THE CIVIL WAR IN RWANDA WAS RAGING. HE WAS ALSO WELL-AWARE OF OUR CONCERNS REGARDING THE NEED TO CREATE THE CONDITIONS WITHIN RWANDA THAT WILL FACILITATE THE RETURN OF REFUGEES, AND BELIEVES HIS GOVERNMENT IS ACCOMMODATING THOSE CONCERNS WITHIN THE LIMITED RESOURCES THEY HAVE. AT THE SAME TIME, TWAGIRAMUNGU SEES SUCH STEPS AS INTEGRALLY CONNECTED WITH INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT FOR HIS NEW GOVERNMENT AND SEEMED GENUINELY SURPRISED AND DISAPPOINTED BY THE SLOW INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE TO HIS COUNTRY'S OBVIOUS NEEDS.

8. MINIMIZE CONSIDERED. CHRISTOPHER

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